



OFFICE OF THE
WATER POLLUTION
CONTROL AUTHORITY

TOWN OF VERNON WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY

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APPROVED

MINUTES WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY CONFERENCE CALL MEETING

July 23, 2020

7:30 p.m.

Attendees:

Carina Hart, Kevin Kearney and Andrew Tedford. Also present: Robert I. Grasis, Director, Water Pollution Control; Steve Boske, Assistant Director, Water Pollution Control; Mike Becker, Tighe & Bond and Lori Carriero, Tighe & Bond

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Ms. Hart.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

MINUTES OF THE WPCA CONFERENCE CALL MEETING HELD ON MAY 28, 2020 AND MINUTES OF THE WPCA CONFERENCE CALL MEETING HELD ON JUNE 25, 2020

Mr. Tedford, seconded by Mr. Kearny made a motion that the Water Pollution Control Authority accepts the minutes of the May 28, 2020 Conference Call Meeting as amended. The motion passed unanimously (3-0-0). Mr. Tedford, seconded by Mr. Kearny made a motion that the Water Pollution Control Authority accepts the minutes of the June 25, 2020 Conference Call Meeting as presented. The motion passed (2-0-1) with Ms. Hart abstaining.

UPDATE ON TREATMENT FACILITY UPGRADE

Mr. Becker updated the Authority on the progress of the upgrade. During the past month, the upgrade included work on the preliminary treatment building, aeration tanks, secondary clarifiers, filter building, solids building, dirty water storage tank, secondary sludge tanks and the secondary sludge building. Mr. Becker said that as of June 15th, the final completion date is 75 days behind the December 11, 2022 deadline. There were no questions from the Authority.

UPDATE AND DISCUSSION OF THE SEWER SYSTEM EVALUATION SURVEY

Ms. Carriero said that the survey is moving forward with field work which includes TV inspections and sewer manhole inspections. Discussion took place regarding smoke testing investigations, COVID-19 precautions, the fire and police departments. She referenced a sample notice that would be given to residents regarding the smoke testing and answered questions from the Authority.

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PLANT SUMMARY

Mr. Boske reported that the plant is running well, BOD removal was great and chlorination was good. Ms. Hart said that she was glad to see that electricity usage has gone down. Regarding current activities, Mr. Grasis said that the electrical hardware has been installed for the Tankerhoosen and Campbell Avenue pump stations. Also, Mr. Grasis reported that, today, Assistant Director Steve Boske, is celebrating 30 years of employment with the Water Pollution Control Department. The Authority and Mr. Grasis congratulated Mr. Boske on this milestone. Also, among the current activities, Mr. Grasis reported that the new collection technician has been training; interviews were conducted for the Financial Analyst position; COVID-19 weekly training has begun because of frequently changing guidelines; and a sewer odor complaint on Quarry Drive was the result of a manhole cover that was not properly replaced during the flow monitoring. A utility meeting took place regarding the replacement of the bridge on Dart Hill Road. By-pass pumping will not be needed for the Dart Hill Road pump station during the bridge reconstruction, Mr. Grasis said, and there is a possibility the pump station can have a potable water line extended to it. Mr. Grasis said that he will provide an update on the possibility that the WPCA may be eligible for total reimbursement from DEEP for the sewer manhole cutouts and replacements on Lake Street.

BUSINESS OFFICE REPORT

Mr. Grasis said that although revenue is below what was budgeted for last fiscal year, expenditures were also below budget, and the same could be realized for the current fiscal year. He recommended that sewer user rates remain the same. Also, collection efforts through the Collector of Revenue Office, will increase for this fiscal year he said. Regarding the legal notice, Mr. Grasis said the Collector of Revenue wants to add due dates, the dates of consumption that is covered by the notice, and a \$2.00 minimum interest fee. Mr. Grasis said that he would like to add connection fees, inspection fees, repair fees and expired permit renew fees to the legal notice as well, so the Authority can review and approve them annually. Discussion took place.

SET DATE FOR PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROPOSED SCHEDULE OF SEWER USE CHARGES, AND FOR THE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF SEWAGE

It was the consensus of the Authority to schedule the public hearing at 6:00 p.m., Thursday, August 13, 2020, with a Special Meeting to follow.

ANY ADDITIONAL MATTERS

Mr. Grasis updated the Authority regarding correspondence he received from a town business that was closed during the pandemic and did not pay their sewer bill on time. The business has requested that the WPCA waive the interest charges. Mr. Grasis said that he contacted the Town Attorney who said that the only relief was to apply for the tax relief deferral program. Mr. Grasis explained that the business missed the program's July 1st deadline and that Connecticut State Statutes does not allow the WPCA to waive interest. The Authority agreed that interest cannot be waived as per state statute.

ADJOURN

Mr. Kearney, seconded by Ms. Hart made a motion to adjourn. The motion passed unanimously (3-0-0) and the meeting was adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Lisa B. Yost, Secretary Water Pollution Control